DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. V NO. 1 JANUARY 6th 1956 Price: 15 Pf., 5c., 3d

BERLIN-PEKING PACT

Democratic Germany Linked With China

Six hundred million Chinese are now allied through a pact of friendship with the seventeen million inhabitants of the German Democratic Republic.

This was only one of the results of the 25-day Asian tour made by a government delegation of the German Democratic Republic, headed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl.

When the government delegation arrived back in Berlin on December 30th, it brought with it in its luggage the following important documents:

1. A friendship pact with the Chinese People's Republic, the first such pact to be concluded by China with any European country with the exception of the Soviet Union.

2. A formal statement, agreed with the Government of People's China, on the joint aims of the two governments in the international field.

3. Agreements on joint aims and increasing cooperation in the economic field, concluded with the governments of the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic.

Welcoming the government delegation back in Berlin, President Wilhelm Pieck described the results of the Asian tour as "one of the most momentous successes of our foreign policy . . . which will undoubtedly greatly strengthen the international position of our Republic."

Full details of the friendship pact and other agreements are given on page 3 of this issue.

Merchants of Death Dominate W. German Atoms

The West German Government has established a "German Atomic Commission" which is dominated by war criminals, war profiteers, and international financiers.

The new commission, which is officially charged with the task of supervising "the peaceful use of atomic energy", will hold its constituent meeting in Bonn on January 15th.

Thirteen of the 25 members of the commission represent West German big business and heavy industry; eight of the members are professors, several of them dependent upon heavy industry for their jobs; two are government officials; and two, as a camouflage measure, represent the right-wing trade union leadership.

The big business representatives include the following:

Hermann Abs

This 55-year old banker was sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment in absentia for war crimes by a Yugoslav court in Zagreb in 1945. During the war Abs was director of 40 companies, including many looted by the nazis in occupied Europe. He drew direct profits from the production of "Zyklon" gas used to murder millions in nazi concentration camps.

In 1945 the U. S. Department of the Army, in Orientation Pamphlet No. 31/110, listed Hermann Abs as "one of the leading German financiers, who has amassed huge sums under National Socialism."

The Bulletin of US Office of Military Government in Germany, November 1946, stated: "Abs was the guiding spirit of the villainous Deutsche Bank, which combined an unusual concentration of economic power with active collaboration in the criminal policies of the nazi regime. Hermann Abs' Deutsche Bank acted as top-rank agent of the German Government, and served the economic penetration of the satellite states and the occupied countries of Europe. Abs repaid the advantages granted to him and to his bank by playing an active role in the various organisations and economic committees organised by the nazis. The foreign department of the Deutsche Bank rested in the hands of four men who worked under the supervision of Hermann Abs. He devoted his entire attention to extending German domination through Europe."

Today Hermann Abs is once again director of the Deutsche Bank, director of 40 key industrial enterprises in West Germany, and member of the powerful "Atomic Commission".

Hermann Reusch

This 60-year old industrialist is managing director of the Gutehoffnung Foundry complex in the Ruhr, an enormous vertical trust with over 100,000 employees. Reusch was one of the biggest war profiteers in nazi

(cont. on next page)

(cont. from front page)

Merchants of Death

Germany, profiting not only from his Ruhr factories, which were turning out war material, but also from the booty of nazi-occupied Europe. Hitler appointed him as one of his "War Economy Leaders" (Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrer), and charged him with the particular task of incorporating the mines of Yugoslavia and Greece in the war production of the Third Reich.

After the war, Ruhr workers refused to work under this old nazi, and when, in April 1948, the western occupation powers named him as chief of the "Control Commission for Steel Production" they threatened a general strike until his name was withdrawn.

Today, Reusch is on the board of 11 important West German industrial undertakings, including ship-yards, engineering factories and cable works.

Dr Alfred Petersen

Dr Petersen is chairman of the board of directors of the Metallgesellschaft, Frankfurt, which has control of a major part of the West German production and processing of non-ferrous metals. He has held this post of chairman of the board without interruption since 1917, and participated in the war profits from both World Wars. The annual report of the company, which appeared over Dr Petersen's name in 1938, one year before the outbreak of World War Two, stated: "The (nazi) Four Year Plan, the expansion of the Wehrmacht, and the incorporation of Austria have brought us new tasks. There is scarcely one of our works which has not expanded in the course of the year, and started or continued new building."

After the Second World War Dr Petersen remained chairman of the board of the mother company, and is on the board of directors of many other big industrial firms, including the great electrical firm of Siemens.

Dr Hans C. Boden

Dr Boden, aged 63, war profiteer as deputy chairman of the great AEG electric trust, an affiliate of the American General Electric Corp. From 1925 to 1929 he was general secretary of the German Young Plan delegation, which obtained from America the capital necessary for reconstructing German industry in preparation for World War Two. Member of the board of directors of about ten other important banks and industrial undertakings.

*

Other big businessmen on the West German Atomic Commission include the following: Gerhard Geyer, member of the board of directors of ESSO, a Standard Oil affiliate; Dr Goudefroy, director of the Allianz Insurance Company; Dr Knott, a director of Siemens-Schuckert; Dr. Deuter, director of the Duisburg Apparatus Works; and Professor Winnacker and Alexander Menne from the board of directors of the Hoechst Chemical Works, a successor company of IG Farben.

These are the men who now control atomic developments in West Germany.

. . . but in East Germany

There is not a single big businessman or war profiteer in the Atom Energy Commission of the German Democratic Republic, which was established on November 10th 1955. The Commission, the full title of which is "Scientific Commission for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Eneregy" includes 17 outstanding scientists, headed by Professor Gustav Hertz, internationally renowned physicist who is holder of the Nobel Prize, the Stalin Prize and the National Prize of the German Democratic Republic.

Other leading scientific figures on the commission include medical experts, metallurgists and organic chemists. The lay members of the commission include Fritz Selbmann, Deputy Prime Minister, a coal miner by trade who spent the entire nazi period in prison and concentration camp; Gerhart Ziller, Chairman of the Economic Commission of the People's Chamber and engineer by trade, who served a long prison sentence under the nazis; and Kurt Hager, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, who worked in the German anti-Hitler underground, later emigrated and worked for the Republican cause in Spain, and then took part in the fight against Hitlerism from England.

WEHRMACHT -official

The new West German Wehrmacht officially came into existence on January 1st 1956. West German and American circles originally planned to raise the new Wehrmacht, which is exclusively commanded by old nazi generals, in 1952, but massive opposition both inside West Germany and in other countries delayed its formal establishment for nearly four years.

It has been semi-officially announced in Bonn that the new Wehrmacht will be about twice as strong as the twelve-division strength laid down by the Western European Union agreement signed in Paris on October 23rd 1954. This agreement, signed for Britain by the then Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden, stated specifically in Protocol II, Article 1:

"The land and air forces . . . for the Federal Republic of Germany . . . shall not exceed in total strength the maxima laid down for peace-time in the Special Agreement annexed to the Treaty on the Establishment of a European Defence Community signed at Paris on May 27 1952."

The British White Paper (Cmd. 9304) on this agreement adds a footnote stating:

"The Special Agreement annexed to the European Defence Community Treaty is not a published document. Authoritative German statements have, however, confirmed that the levels laid down for the German contribution to European Defence Community were as follows: — Army 12 Divisions: Air Force — A Tactical Air Force of about 1,350 aircraft: Navy — Light Coastal Defence and Escort Vessels."

In fact, present plans for the size of the West German Army, according to information from the West German Defence Ministry quoted on December 28th 1955 by the American news agency United Press, call for an army more than twice the size of the maximum permitted by the treaty quoted above.

In order to camouflage this doubling in size, about 150,000 soldiers in the new army will be allotted to regular army divisions. A further 220,000 will be camouflaged as "General Service Troops". This is equivalent to about 18 further divisions.

The figures given in the United Press dispatch for the strength of the new Wehrmacht show that it will total over 380,000 men, approximately the same size as the British Army.

FRIENDSHIP PACT WITH ASIAN MILLIONS

Democratic German Delegation in China, Korea, Mongolia

People's China and Democratic Germany have concluded a friendship pact under which the two states pledge full cooperation in all fields.

The pact was signed in Peking on December 25th by Prime Minister Chou En-lai for the Chinese People's Republic and by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl for the German Democratic Republic. The pact will come into effect as soon as it is ratified by the two governments in the very near future.

Before the signature of the pact Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl had headed an official delegation from the German Democratic Republic which made a two week tour of People's China. Full details of the terms of the pact are given below.

Simultaneously with the signing of the pact, the governments of the two states issued a joint statement on their negotiations, making the following main points:

1. Both governments give their support to the standpoint of the German Democratic Republic on the best method of solving the German problem, as outlined in the proposals made by the Government of Democratic Germany to the Big Four Conference in Geneva.

2. "Aggressive circles in the United States of America and their supporters are attempting to pursue further the bankrupt 'policy of strength'. One expression of this is the extremely hostile attitude adopted towards the peace-loving Chinese People's Republic and the peace-loving German Democratic Republic. This policy . . . is doomed to failure."

3. Both states are ready to do everything to maintain peace, and are ready to take part in all international acts which serve peace and collective security.

4. "The Government Delegation of the German Democratic Republic declares that it would welcome a normalisation of relations between the Chinese People's Republic and the German Federal Republic (West Germany) in the interests of peace and the unification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state."

5. Both states agree that the tension created by American occupation of the Chinese territory of Taiwan (Formosa) must be speedily removed. The Chinese People's Republic must take its rightful place in the United Nations and in the Security Council.

6. All states which meet the conditions of the United Nations Charter must be accepted as members of the United Nations.

7. Both states urge compliance with the Geneva agreement on the restoration of peace in Indo-China. They agree that an international conference of all interested states should be called as soon as possible for a peaceful solution of the Korean question.

8. Both states welcome the speedy development of the national democratic forces in the Asian and African area. "Both sides reject decisively every form of colonialism. They support all states and peoples in their struggle for national independence and defence of state sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"They support the rightful demand of India for the return of Goa, and of Indonesia for the return of West Irian (West New Guinea); the fight of the peoples of North Africa for their national right of self-determination; the rightful claims of the Arab peoples and their resistance against being drawn into aggressive military blocks."

9. "Both sides are strongly opposed to aggressive military blocks, and believe that the security of the countries of Europe, Asia and Africa is menaced by NATO, Western European Union, SEATO, the Manila Pact and the Bagdad Pact."

10. Questions of international dispute must be solved by peaceful negotiations between all interested states, irrespective of their social order. The aim must be to overcome military blocks, the establishment of general security, disarmament and a ban on the production, testing and use of atom and hydrogen bombs.

•

Pact Points

Here are the main points of the Friendship Pact signed in Peking on December 25th:

"Article 1. The treaty partners solemnly pledge that both states will participate in a spirit of honest cooperation in all international fields which have the aim of guaranteeing world peace and the security of nations in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

"Article 2. The treaty partners will confer in a spirit of fraternal alliance on all important international questions affecting the interests of both states. They will devote particular attention to the necessity of guaran-

(cont. on next page)

USSR & DEMOCRATIC GERMANY DISCUSS PROBLEMS

Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl of the German Democratic Republic conferred in Moscow on December 29th 1955 with Soviet Prime Minister Bulganin on current international problems. The discusssion was attended by other Soviet and German leaders.

An official statement announced that both sides had agreed that the organisation of a European Security system, with the cooperation of the two German states, would create the necessary prerequisites for a settlement of the German problem. Under the present conditions the only realistic method of bringing about the unification of Germany as a peaceful and democratic state was through reaching an understanding between the two German states — the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

On the same date, N. S. Khrushchov, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union referred to the problem of Germany and European security in an address to the Supreme Soviet. He pointed out that the solution of the German problem as proposed by the Soviet Union would be favourable to the interests of both Britian and France. Khrushchov stated:

"If we assume that the dream of warlike American politicians were to become reality, and reunited Germany were to be incorporated in the aggressive block, then Britain and France would scarcely be able to live in peace. The seekers for revenge in Germany would have been given a free hand. They would start to act in their old manner — and France would be a tempting morsel for them."

(cont. from preceding page)

teeing the inviolability of their sovereign territory and the security of their states, and to securing world peace.

"**Article 3.** The treaty partners pledge themselves, in accordance with the interests of their states, to strengthen and broaden their friendly relations in all fields on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, equal rights, and mutual gain.

"**Article 4.** The treaty partners will extend to each other all possible economic help, and will further develop economic cooperation in the interests of the peaceful construction of both states."

Articles 5 and 6 of the treaty dealt with further cooperation in the fields of science and culture. Article 7 stated that the friendship pact would remain in force until the establishment of the unity of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state, or until the treaty partners decided to alter or terminate it.

•

Agreement in Korea . . .

On December 21st the Prime Ministers of the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the German Democratic Republic signed a joint statement in Pyongyang calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from both Korea and Germany.

The joint statement said that the reunification of Germany and Korea was above all a matter for the Korean people and the German people to solve, and it must be accomplished by peaceful means. Both in Germany and in Korea this must be achieved step by step through mutual contact between the two states existing in Korea and the two states existing in Germany. This would make possible negotiations, and would finally produce the confidence necessary for the peaceful reunification of the countries.

The two governments pledged themselves to a further extension of existing friendly relations in the economic and cultural fields.

. . . and People's Mongolia

The Government Delegation from the German Democratic Republic also visited the Mongolian People's Republic during its visit to East Asia.

In Ulan Bator, Mongolian capital, Mongolian Prime Minister Zedenbal and Prime Minister Grotewohl issued a joint statement pledging an extension of the existing economic and cultural cooperation between the two states. The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic declared its full solidarity with the German people in their struggle for the peaceful reunification of Germany on a democratic basis.

The joint statement strongly criticised the Chiang Kai-shek veto against the acceptance of Mongolia as a member of the United Nations.

THOSE "REFUGEES"

More than 160,000 persons left West Germany during 1954 to settle in other states, according to statistics made available in Berlin and Bonn.

Western newspapers regularly print sensational and highly inflated statistics of the number of persons who are alleged to have "fled" from the German Democratic Republic, but these latest figures show that far more people emigrate from West than from East Germany.

During 1954, according to official figures issued by the West German Ministry of the Interior, 61,614 persons emigrated from West Germany to countries overseas, mainly USA and Canada. The West German Ministry gave no figures for West Germans emigrating eastwards to the German Democratic Republic, but it was officially announced in Berlin that the figure exceeded 100,000 in 1954.

During the same year, according to West German statistics, about 100,000 persons moved from East Germany to West Germany. These figures are known to be considerably "padded", since the same persons are often counted twice: once when they report to the "refugee centres" in West Berlin, and a second time when they arrive in West Germany.

Final figures for the movement of population during 1955 are not yet available, but it was officially announced in Berlin in September 1955 that monthly averages then for West-East movements were running about 12 % above the 1954 figure. A large proportion of the people moving their permanent residences from West Germany to East Germany in 1955 were young men in the early twenties, moving away to avoid conscription in the new West German Wehrmacht.

Chinese Talcum for Berlin Babies

Talcum for use in baby powder is one of the many raw materials being supplied to the German Democratic Republic by People's China under a new trade agreement just concluded.

Other more important raw materials to be supplied include wolfram, molybdenum, antimony and mercury for the metallurgical industry; bristles, wool, cotton and mohair; and large quantities of silk.

A major part of imports from China are foodstuffs, particularly soya beans and ground nuts for use in margarine production, which form over one third of all imports from China. Other large items on the list include tea, tangerines and spices.

In return, the German Democratic Republic is providing China with large quantities of machinery and manufactured goods.

Shorts from the News

Three East German films, "Stronger than the Night", "The Lackey" and "The Cold Heart", are now showing in Jugoslav cinemas.

•

Amongst films shown at the East German Film Week in Hanoi, Vietnam, between Christmas and New Year were the Thaelmann films and "Little Mook", a children's colour film.

•

East Germany now imports coffee, bananas and tobacco from Colombia in return for machinery, fine mechanical and optical instruments, chemicals and fertilisers.

•

"Theodore Dreiser's Novels" is the title of a small book published in East Germany on the tenth anniversary of Dreiser's death. Many of Dreiser's novels have been translated and published in East Germany in big editions since 1945.

•

Four plane loads of medical supplies worth about 80,000 marks were sent by Democratic Germany to Vietnam in December to help the victims of the recent typhoon there. East Germany has contributed 5 million marks for assistance to Vietnam since November 1954, and nearly 42 million marks to Korea since 1950.

What's Become of Prussia? (2)

FROM JUNKER ESTATE TO COOPERATIVE FARM

By Rose Michel, Berlin Correspondent of "L'Humanite"

Famous foreign correspondent Rose Michel has been visiting the country area surrounding Berlin, formerly the preserve of the Prussian Junkers and militarists, to find out what has happened to Prussia. One of her articles was published in GERMAN REPORT on December 23rd 1955: on this page we present her second article.

The first agricultural production cooperative in East Germany was set up in Worin, in the backward province of Brandenburg, in 1951, on the 900 acres of land formerly owned by a big landowner named Gerloff. Thirty-six peasants received land and primitive housing here in 1945, amongst them Bernard Grunert, who is about fifty years old, with a frank and open expression and rough peasant's hands. The cooperative, which how has 86 members and works 1300 acres of land, has elected him chairman three times in succession, and he told me he always had difficulty in persuading his supporters that the elections must be conducted by secret ballot.

He is the soul of this rapidly growing cooperative and it is certainly partly due to its success that a movement hitherto unknown in Germany—the agricultural cooperative movement—spread from here all over the Republic.

"The start was hard", said Bernard Grunert. "Here in the Seelow district the soil is poor, and we had to begin by demining the fields. The Soviet Army had fought hard battles here to drive out the Nazis, who hung on like grim death to every inch of terrain.

"Many of us had never owned land before. Others were discouraged and sceptical. Who would advise us? Who would help us? Where should we find implements and machinery? And in the struggle to overcome our difficulties we discovered the value of working together. The idea of starting an agricultural production cooperative on a voluntary basis took root, and we submitted it to the Socialist Unity Party, who put it to the government. It was like a snowball, for there are now over 6000 such cooperatives in the Republic, and the government assists them in a number of ways: with credits, provision of seed and artificial manures, and above all by the provision of modern agricultural machinery at low rentals.

"But there were still some people," Grunert added, "who did not take to the idea. Some thought this was only another roundabout way of taking their land away again. Others insisted that peasants do not have a collective attitude of mind like town workers, or they were afraid that the most active and capable would have to do the work for the lazy ones as well. The old Junkers who had had to disgorge their lands also did their best to make as many difficulties as possible. Through the agents they had left behind them, and through the American-controlled radio, they spread rumours, like: 'What's the use of it all if you have to give up what you produce?' or 'Nobody ever heard of peasants cultivating land on their own.' There was plenty of sabotage, but we were stronger. Now all the Worin peasants except two, who own 50 acres between them, are members of the cooperative."

Membership of an agricultural production cooperative is absolutely voluntary, and the prosperity which an individual peasant can and does achieve is the best guarantee that when he joins he really does it of his own free will. In any case, the peasant remains owner of his land and if he wishes to leave the cooperative again, a piece of land of the same size and quality must be handed over to him by the cooperative.

At the entrance to the village I had noticed a placard showing what Worin had owned at the end of the war: 6 horses, 8 cows, 2 pigs—that was all. Today there are 250 sheep, 400 pigs, nearly 100 cows, and the land, not counting animals and fowls which cooperative members rear at home.

Grunert pointed to the pleasant new tile-roofed houses. The Worin children have forgotten the old thatched huts their parents used to live in.

Three young girls dashed past us on their way to a dance at the club. I had just time to find out that Helga Motzkus, 16 years old, is a shop assistant, Hanni Stein, 19 years old, is in charge of the poultry yard with its 800 birds and Helga Fuhr, 16 years old, is learning market gardening. All three are members of the cooperative and have not only the same rights as the older members, but also some special advantages on account of their age, such as shorter working hours, longer paid holidays and chances to study. They were all wearing pretty new dresses.

I went into the bright, airy kindergarten, where two young girls look after 34 bonny children between the ages of three and six. "What does it cost their parents to send their children here?" I asked. 15 pfennigs a day, the price of a couple of cigarettes. It is easy to see that under these circumstances women are

WIN A NEW READER

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

amongst the most enthusiastic co-operators.

"Just now", one of them told me, "they are putting up a laundry near the machine and tractor station, so that we shan't have the bother of washing and ironing any more. If anybody had ever told me, who had to go to work in the fields when I was eight years old, that I should have time to go to the club and read books—well! . . ."

A man came up to talk to Bernard Grunert, and I took the chance to ask him some questions. It was Herr Boltschik, a resettler who received 23 acres of land under the Land Reform. I asked him why he joined the cooperative. "That's simple", was his answer, "to have less trouble and to earn more money."

He is one of the enthusiasts and he offered to show me over the buildings. I had expected them to be modern, but was astonished at what I saw. I looked in vain for the usual things like a manure heap, a wheelbarrow or a peasant woman prodding a cow or carrying pails of milk . . . "Sacks?" said my guide, "I haven't had a sack on my back for ages", jerking his shoulders as if to throw off an imaginary load. He showed me the gleaming piping and electrically run fodder-cutting machines and the grain chutes.

But the thing which impressed me most was the transport of fodder to the stables and to each separate feeding trough by overhead containers running on a cable and emptying over each trough. Levers and buttons set all this in motion. Each animal has an individual drinking trough with fresh running water. Everything is spotlessly clean. There is no manure lying about, for this is taken out at the other end of the stable in the same way as the food is brought in. Milking is also done electrically.

Suddenly a Strauss waltz rings out. The stables have their loudspeakers too! The Worin cooperators would not know what to do without their radio, they tell me.

This year the Worin agricultural production cooperators brought in their fourth harvest—the best yet. They now harvest twice as much and have three times as much livestock as the Gerloffs had. Their children are studying to be doctors, agronomists, master farmers and so on, and they get together in their club in the evening, to watch television or see performances by visiting theatre ensembles in the big reception hall. They can tell the Gerloffs and their likes that a new Germany has been born which never wants to see them again.

ATOMIC CENTRAL HEATING PLANNED IN EAST GERMANY

Atomic central heating plants for residential quarters are being included in the long-range plans of the town-planners in the German Democratic Republic, Professor Hermann Henselmann, chief architect of democratic Berlin, told GERMAN REPORT in an exclusive interview.

"Efficient central thermal plant, providing heat for several blocks of houses or a whole quarter, are the obvious heating method of the future" he stated. "The use of atomic units to provide the heat is only a few years away, and we are already making allowance for the use of such atomic units in our long-range town planning."

Turning to the problems which are nearer at hand, Professor Henselmann said that the policy being used in the rebuilding of democratic Berlin could be summed up in the phrase "We are not trying to build quicker, we are trying to build better."

The first emergency rush of patching up the ruins left in Berlin at the end of the war was now ended, and long-term town planning could be put into effect. The long term plan for Berlin is to thin out the overcrowded workers' districts in the east centre of the city, and to transfer the population to new airy settlements on the outskirts of the city, nearer to the factories where they work.

This means that a large part of the building in the next few years will have to be concentrated in the outer suburbs, since it is not possible to clear and rebuild slum areas near the centre of the city until new houses have been built for the people now living there.

Under the present plans, the centre of the city will be the last part to be reconstructed, though tentative plans for the centre, including the government quarter, have already been drawn up.

Professor Henselmann stated that there was likely to be a startling upsurge in the speed and efficiency of building in two or three years' time. "During 1956 and 1957 particular attention is being devoted to expanding the industrial basis of the building industry. New factories turning out pre-fabricated parts, normed windows, doors and other parts, and machinery to speed-up building will be constructed.

"Then in 1958 and 1959 we shall see the results in building production which will dwarf the efforts we are making today."

CARDINAL TELLS WEST GERMANS: "DON'T RAISE LIVING STANDARD"

West German workers should not strive to improve their standard of living, Roman Catholic Cardinal Frings of Cologne told them in a Christmas message.

Cardinal Frings, who is one of Chancellor Adenauer's closest advisers, addressed a special Christmas message to workers in the "Koelnische Rundschau" on December 24th under the headline "Frugality and Humility."

The message stated: "Refrain from striving to improve your standard of living. Learn once more to be content, even when others have more than you have."

(Cardinal Frings had great influence on day-to-day British policy in West Germany in the early post-war years. He exerted his influence largely through Lord Pakenham, British Catholic who was Minister in the Labour Government responsible for the British Zone. A jingle popular amongst members of the British Control Commission at that time was:

"When Frings
Pulls strings
Pakenham
Starts sackin' 'em.")

"Saving the World" Once Again

"The battle of ideas between the East and the West is being fought out in the German people . . . It is the historic task of the German people to win this struggle, in order to save not only themselves, but also the world".

West German Finance Minister Fritz Schaeffer, addressing the West German Parliament on December 8th 1955

LETTER BOX

Readers Help Run "German Report"

To put out the sort of paper which you want to read, we have to hear from you. On this page we print a selection of points from readers' letters which have come in during the past few weeks, with praise, criticism and suggestions. We appreciate the praise, but criticism and suggestions are even more valuable. We hope that coming numbers of GERMAN REPORT will reflect the criticism and suggestions in these and other letters received, and detailed answers will be printed soon to some of the questions which readers ask. Have you written your letter yet?

"Too Many Figures"

"GERMAN REPORT goes too heavy on details and statistics on the nazis and militarists in West Germany. I think they should continue to be an integral part of the paper and continue to supply the needed ammunition... But bear in mind that GERMAN REPORT is our only source of news of what is happening in East Germany and as such has a major responsibility for giving us a picture of what is happening there: the good and also the bad.

"You might for example devote an article or two to the techniques developed in East Germany for turning out complete factories... what new techniques have been developed; some personal stories about the men who direct and the men who build these factories. What has happened to the farmers of East Germany?... Do they have collective farms?"

M. F. New York City

"I Disagree"

"I am anything but a Communist and probably disagree with you on political ends. What appears to me valuable in your paper is your information on influential persons in the Federal Republic, and I should be grateful if you would send me past issues containing such information."

W. S., London, England

Munition Profiteers?

"I should like to know how your nationally owned industries are run. Are they on the same lines as our British railways and coal mining? Does anyone make profits out of munitions? I should like to know what happened to your middle classes when the government changed. There is another thing — one often reads that in the Socialist countries people dare not criticise the government. To get down to brass tacks, I would like to know something about the standards of living. You have printed some very interesting articles comparing prices and wages in East and West Germany. Is it possible to do the same with East Germany and England? Does your defence programme interfere a lot with the standard of living? Do your prices soar and wages stagger up afterwards?"

E. L., Leeds, England

Engine Drivers

"I am an engine driver, and if possible would like to know what conditions operate on the railways in East Germany, particularly the locomotive grades."

J. B., Birmingham, England

More About E. Germany

"We have just had another discussion on GERMAN REPORT — with the strong and unanimous conclusion that it must have as much about developments and achievements in the German Democratic Republic as possible... More please."

D. D. London, England

Bread & Butter

"Can you give a brief comparison of the standard of living of the German Democratic Republic with that prevailing in West Germany? I have many friends deeply interested in this 'bread and butter' question.

W. R., Florida, USA

Passion for Figures

"May I disagree about there being too many statistics. I thrive on them. In arguments I often find I am short of the essential ones and turn to papers like yours for help. Here are some of the topics which I think need constant attention: living standards of East and West compared; analysis of East versus West German economies, rate of development, output, shares going to the people, health, education, etc."

R. F. P. Westcliff-on-Sea, England

Sculptors

"I am a sculptor. This makes me very interested to know how the sculptors are commissioned and paid in the Democratic Republic... How do their conditions compare with those of a professor in a university, in position and payment? Is the material provided, and the work on it then paid for? Do sculptors lecture in schools once, twice, or every day of the working week?"

E. L., Angus, Scotland

Not Enough Facts

"May I add a small congratulation about GERMAN REPORT. Its effect in this country goes far beyond the actual numbers circulated. The one small complaint I have heard about the paper is that it gives very little information relating to the life of the people in West Germany; and some more information on the life of the working people in East Germany would also help."

F. J., London, England

"Who's Who" Wanted

"I have just seen a number of GERMAN REPORT containing a 'Who's Who' of the Federal German Government (October 28th 1955). Could you publish a similar one for the German Democratic Republic, as the contrast must be overwhelming. What proportion of Adenauer's supporters are the 66 named? Are these all the ex-nazis or just a sample?"

M. M. London

(Biographical information about Ministers and members of parliament in the German Democratic Republic was published in Nos. 23, 24, and 26 of 1954. Free copies are available for anyone interested. The 66 nazis and militarists named in our listing form about one quarter of the members of the West German Parliament supporting Adenauer. Many of his other parliamentary supporters have records just as bad. Ed.)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The London "News Chronicle", in a feature page article on December 19th, provided two good examples of what can best be described as "indirect lying".

The article, by the "News Chronicle's" permanent correspondent in Germany, Karl Robson, dealt at considerable length with the problem of East Germans moving to West Germany. Mr. Robson is an experienced journalist, and too honest (or too canny) to indulge in any outright lying, so he does his job very effectively by the use of more-or-less true statements with a twist.

Russian speaking

I shall just give one example. Mr. Robson writes: "The aim of the schools (in the German Democratic Republic) . . . must be to turn out Russian-speaking German patriots."

The facts are approximately true. From the age of 11 school children in East Germany learn Russian as children of the same age in West Germany begin learning English, and children in Britain begin the study generally of French. (Since the bulk of East Germany's trade and cultural relations are with countries of the eastern block, in which Russian is also the first foreign language taught, there is a very good practical case for the teaching of Russian).

But the effect of this phrase "Russian-speaking German patriots" on the reader is quite different. It creates a picture of little children forced to learn lessons in a foreign language, and treated, in fact, like "colonial natives".

Phoney Caption

To see the false effect caused by the phrase it is only necessary to transpose it: "The aim of the schools (in England) is to turn out French-speaking British patriots."

But enough of that point. I do not suppose that Mr. Robson is responsible for the second indirect lie associated with his article, since it consists of a picture and caption probably supplied by the picture editor.

The picture, placed in the middle of Mr. Robson's article, shows a cameraman struggling in the grip of three rather brutal looking policemen. The caption states: "'Be more easy-going in future' is the new directive to East German police."

The caption does not actually say that the police shown in the picture are East German police, but I am sure that at least 99% of all readers of the "News Chronicle" assumed that they are. In fact, one glance at the picture shows anyone who knows Germany that the police shown are either from West Berlin or some West German town: the differences in uniform between East and West are about as big as between a London bobby and a New York cop.

And I am afraid that these two examples can be multiplied thousands of times, often much more flagrantly, in the millionaire press every day. The weather forecast remains the most reliable piece of news in big-business newspapers, and you know what trust you can put in that.

(Since writing the above I have learned that the "News Chronicle", a couple of days later, published a reader's letter pointing out the "mistake" made with regard to the picture. The paper offered no apology; but honour where honour is due: they did at least print the reader's letter.)

"Express" Prophet

People who write in the London "Daily Express" are not usually very reliable prophets, I believe, but it is interesting to learn of one "Express" man who has been uncannily prophetic.

I refer to Leonard Mosley (no kin of the notorious Sir Oswald), who is now the television critic of Lord Beaverbrook's "Daily Express". In 1946 he wrote a book called "Report from Germany" published in London by Victor Gollancz, and in this book he recounted a talk which he had had in the closing days of the war with Lieutenant Kurt von Kielmannsegg, a junker and a junior member of the nazi General Staff. Here are a few paragraphs from his account:

"With another heel-click and a precise salute, and a lofty look upon his face, he went out; a young and very minor, but nevertheless indubitable member of the German Staff in the old tradition. I remember thinking as I watched him that it wouldn't be men like Keitel and Kesselring and Busch that we would have to be careful of in the years to come, once this war was over (even a sceptic like myself couldn't believe that they would be allowed their freedom of movement again), but young men like Kurt von Kielmannsegg. You might teach the young men and women who had worshipped Hitler the crime of their faith, but the tradition that was in Von Kielmannsegg, that was vibrant in his throat as he talked, was something far deeper and wouldn't care what political power it supported so long as it could be given expression. There, I thought, as I watched him go, is the German General Staff of 1965 — if we don't watch out."

Good Prediction

And I must say it was a pretty good all-round prediction: though there were two mistakes in it. It did not take twenty years, as Mr Mosley feared, but only ten years for West German big businessmen and militarists to set up their General Staff again with the blessing of the western powers; and it was not such minor members of the old General Staff as Lieutenant von Kielmannsegg who composed the new staff, but major members like his older brother Colonel Count Johann von Kielmannsegg, who is now in charge of Section I of the Bonn General Staff.

"Respectable Germans"

When British troops entered Germany in 1945, "the respectable Germans—particularly the women—were, quite naturally, sullen and hostile" stated British General Sir Brian Horrocks, writing in the British "Picture Post" on December 3rd.

For General Horrocks' information the "respectable" Germans who were sullen and hostile were the nazis and their supporters, whom he was supposed to have been fighting against. Decent Germans who had been fighting the nazis since 1933 welcomed the British troops as liberators—at least they did until they discovered that General Horrocks and the other British and American generals were intent on hoisting the "respectable" nazis and militarists into the saddle again.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8. Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik